under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission as well as feedback received from other stakeholders the Government have formulated a Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part-A-excluding pricing) which has been circulated to various departments/stakeholders seeking their comments (including imposing of trade margins).

The 1st meeting of the Pharmaceutical Advisory Forum, was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister (C&F&S) on 11.2.2006 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. Various issues contained in the Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part A) were discussed. Based on these discussions and comments received from various stakeholders, the Government is likely to announce the new policy shortly.

Closure of fertilizer units

1971. SHRI C RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestions/ recommendations to close down certain chemical fertilizer production units;

(b) if so, the authority from which the said suggestions/ recommendations have been received;

(c) the name of units which are proposed to be closed down; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The closure proposals of sick fertilizers Public Sector Undertakings have been approved by the Cabinet.

(c) It has been decided to close down the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.; Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. excepting its Jodhpur Mining Organisation which has been demerged into a new company i.e. FCI Aravalli Gypsum and Minerals India Ltd.; and Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd.

(d) The time frame will depend on the decision of the Hon'ble Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction/High Court.

Recommendations of Mashelkar Committee

1972. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mashelkar Committee on spurious drugs has recommended to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and rules to include a range of herbal and cosmetic formations in its purview; and

(b) if so, the details and the steps initiated by Government to amend the law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Herbal drugs and cosmetic formulations are already being regulated under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. However, the Mashelkar Committee had suggested certain improvements in the regulatory procedures and classifications etc. These recommendations are under action consideration of the Department of AYUSH.

Import of cheap drugs from China

1973. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of cheap drugs from China has hit the drug manufacturers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to protect the interest of bulk drug manufacturers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE), (a) to (c) The Bulk Drug Manufacturers Association (India) and Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (PHARMEXCIL) have informed that especially because of low value imports of drugs from China, Indian manufacturers of drugs like